

Appl. No. 10/657,432
Amtd. dated September 23, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims.

Listing of Claims

1. (ORIGINAL) A medical apparatus comprising:
a medical suction apparatus including an interior for containing fluid, a cover, a first port in the cover, a pre-attached tube coupled to the first port and extending into the interior, and a second port in the cover;
a drainage device including a housing and a support member adapted to support the medical suction apparatus; and
a conduit including a first end coupled to the drainage device housing and a second end coupleable to the second port so that fluid in the interior can flow through the pre-attached tube and out of the second port to the drainage device.
2. (ORIGINAL) The medical apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cover includes a first boss extending upwardly from the second port and a second boss extending downwardly from the first port, and wherein the conduit is coupleable to the first boss and the pre-attached tube is coupled to the second boss.
3. (ORIGINAL) The medical apparatus of claim 1 wherein the medical suction apparatus is a liner-type apparatus.
4. (ORIGINAL) A medical apparatus comprising:
a medical suction apparatus including an interior, a cover, and a port in the cover;
a first conduit coupled to the port and extending into the interior;
a station including a support member adapted to support the medical suction apparatus;
and
a second conduit including a first end coupled to the station and a second end coupled to the port, the second conduit being in fluid communication with the first conduit.
5. (ORIGINAL) The medical apparatus of claim 4 wherein the first and second conduits include flexible tubing.

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6. (ORIGINAL) The medical apparatus of claim 4 wherein the medical suction apparatus is a liner-type apparatus.
7. (ORIGINAL) A medical apparatus comprising:
 - a medical suction apparatus including an interior, a cover, and a port in the cover;
 - a first fluid connector coupled to the port and extending into the interior;
 - a drainage station including a support member adapted to support the medical suction apparatus; and
 - a second fluid connector including a first end coupled to the drainage station and a second end coupled to the port, whereby fluid in the interior flows through the first fluid connector and to the drainage station via the second fluid connector.
8. (ORIGINAL) The medical apparatus of claim 7 wherein the first and second fluid connectors include flexible tubing.
9. (ORIGINAL) The medical apparatus of claim 7 wherein the medical suction apparatus is a liner-type apparatus.
10. (ORIGINAL) A medical suction apparatus comprising:
 - a fluid container having an interior;
 - a cover secured to the container, the cover having therein a port, a first port wall extending into the interior, and a second port wall extending in a direction opposite the interior; and
 - a conduit coupled to the first port wall and extending into the interior.
11. (ORIGINAL) The medical suction apparatus of claim 10 wherein the fluid container is a liner-type fluid container.
12. (ORIGINAL) The medical suction apparatus of claim 10 and further including a second conduit coupled to the second port wall.

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13. (ORIGINAL) The medical suction apparatus of claim 10 wherein the first port wall and the second port wall are integrally connected.
14. (ORIGINAL) The medical suction apparatus of claim 10 wherein the fluid container has a bottom wall portion and the conduit has a first end coupled to the first port wall and a second end adjacent the bottom wall portion.
15. (ORIGINAL) The medical suction apparatus of claim 10 wherein the fluid container has a length and wherein the first conduit extends into the interior at least 75% of the length of the container.
16. (ORIGINAL) The medical suction apparatus of claim 10 wherein the conduit is coupled to the first port wall via a friction fit.
17. (ORIGINAL) A medical suction apparatus comprising:
 - a fluid container having an interior;
 - a cover secured to the container, the cover having therein a port; and
 - a conduit coupled to the port and extending into the interior.
18. (ORIGINAL) The medical suction apparatus of claim 17 and further including a second conduit coupled to the port and in fluid communication with the conduit.
19. (ORIGINAL) The medical suction apparatus of claim 17 wherein the conduit is flexible.
20. (ORIGINAL) The medical suction apparatus of claim 17 wherein the fluid container is a liner-type container.

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21. (NEW) A method of handling bodily fluid removed from a patient during a medical procedure, the method comprising:
 - providing a suction canister including a container portion having an interior and a cover;
 - connecting the canister to a vacuum source and thereby removing bodily fluid from the patient and drawing the fluid into the container portion;
 - disconnecting the canister from the vacuum source;
 - providing a first conduit having upper and lower ends, the first conduit hanging down into the interior of the container such that the lower end communicates with the interior;
 - providing a second conduit having an end;
 - connecting the end of the second conduit to the upper end of the first conduit; and
 - removing the bodily fluid from the container portion via the first and second conduits while substantially eliminating contact with the fluid by any person handling the canister.
22. (NEW) A method according to claim 21 and further comprising positioning the canister in a substantially upright position while removing the bodily fluid.
23. (NEW) A method according to claim 22 wherein the interior has a bottom when the canister is in the upright position, and wherein providing the first conduit includes having the first conduit extend to a point near the bottom of the interior.
24. (NEW) A method according to claim 21 wherein the first conduit is provided prior to connecting the canister to a vacuum source.
25. (NEW) A method according to claim 21 and further comprising providing the cover with a downwardly extending boss, and wherein providing the first conduit includes connecting the first conduit to the downwardly extending boss.
26. (NEW) A method according to claim 25 and further comprising providing the cover with an upwardly extending boss, and wherein providing the second conduit includes connecting the end of the second conduit to the upwardly extending boss.

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27. (NEW) A method according to claim 21 and further comprising, after removing the bodily fluid from the container portion, disconnecting the second conduit from the upper end of the first conduit, and disposing of the container portion with the first conduit inside the container portion.

28. (NEW) A method according to claim 21 wherein removing the bodily fluid also includes providing a drainage device communicating with the second conduit.

29. (NEW) A method according to claim 21 wherein the cover has therein a port, and wherein providing the first conduit includes the first conduit communicating with the port.

30. (NEW) A method according to claim 29 wherein connecting the end of the second conduit to the upper end of the first conduit includes the end of the second conduit communicating with the port.

31. (NEW) A method according to claim 30 and further comprising providing the cover with a downwardly extending boss, and wherein providing the first conduit includes connecting the first conduit to the downwardly extending boss.

32. (NEW) A method according to claim 31 and further comprising providing the cover with an upwardly extending boss, and wherein providing the second conduit includes connecting the end of the second conduit to the upwardly extending boss.

33. (NEW) A method of handling bodily fluid removed from a patient during a medical procedure, the method comprising:
providing a suction canister including a container portion having an interior and a cover, the cover having therein a port;
connecting the canister to a vacuum source and thereby removing bodily fluid from the patient and drawing the fluid into the container portion;
disconnecting the canister from the vacuum source;
providing a first conduit communicating with the port, the first conduit having upper and

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lower ends, and the first conduit hanging down into the interior of the container such that the lower end communicates with the interior;

providing a second conduit having an end communicating with the upper end of the first conduit; and

removing the bodily fluid from the container portion via the first and second conduits while substantially eliminating contact with the fluid by any person handling the canister.

34. (NEW) A method according to claim 33 and further comprising positioning the canister in a substantially upright position while removing the bodily fluid.

35. (NEW) A method according to claim 34 wherein the interior has a bottom when the canister is in the upright position, and wherein providing the first conduit includes having the first conduit extend to a point near the bottom of the interior.

36. (NEW) A method according to claim 33 wherein the first conduit is provided prior to connecting the canister to a vacuum source.

37. (NEW) A method according to claim 33 and further comprising providing the cover with a downwardly extending boss, and wherein providing the first conduit includes connecting the first conduit to the downwardly extending boss.

38. (NEW) A method according to claim 37 and further comprising providing the cover with an upwardly extending boss, and wherein providing the second conduit includes connecting the end of the second conduit to the upwardly extending boss.

39. (NEW) A method according to claim 33 and further comprising, after removing the bodily fluid from the container portion, disconnecting the second conduit from the upper end of the first conduit, and disposing of the container portion with the first conduit inside the container portion.

40. (NEW) A method according to claim 33 wherein removing the bodily fluid also includes providing a drainage device communicating with the second conduit.